

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00502 221434Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 AID-05 /106 W

-----116443 221458Z /40

R 221215Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1651

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

RUTAAMXAMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0644

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

SMISSION USUN 0536

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0502

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV BC RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: GOB REACTION TO INTERNAL AGREEMENT

1. INITIAL GOB REACTION TO SALISBURY INTERNAL AGREEMENT
APPEARS TO BE THE BY-NOW-FAMILIAR ONE OF " WAIT AND SEE".

2. AT MEETING FEB 21, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY MPOTOKWANE
TOLD DCM THAT GOB HAD NEITHER MADE NOR YET PREPARED ANY SUB-
STANTIVE COMMENT ON SALISBURY AGREEMENT, AND WAS AWAITING DETAILS
BEFORE DOING SO. HE ALSO STATED THAT THUS FAR THE "AGREEMENT"
SEEMED TO HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT WAS FLESHED OUT.
HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO PLANS FOR A FRONTLINE STATES' MEETING
ON THE ISSUE, ADDING THAT "AT THE MOMENT, THEY WOULD HAVE
VERY LITTLE TO DISCUSS". HE NOTED THAT OTHER FRONTLINE STATES
HAD ALREADY MADE QUICK AND NEGATIVE JUDGMENTS OF THE INTERNAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00502 221434Z

AGREEMENT. (HIS MANNER IMPLIED A THINLY VEILED DISAPPROVAL
OF WHAT THE CAUTIOUS MPOTOKWANE PROBABLY CONSIDERS THEIR
PRECIPITATE REACTION.)

3. ON FEB 17, SPECIAL BRANCH HEAD HIRSCHFELD TOLD EMBOFF THE
BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR ALL PARTIES TO "WAIT AND SEE"
AND NOT JUMP TO PREMATURE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE INTERNAL

SETTLEMENT. BOTSWANA, HE SAID, WOULD SUPPORT ANY SOLUTION WHICH BROUGHT PEACE TO THE AREA. HE THOUGHT IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT ONCE A BLACK PRESIDENT EMERGED IN ZIMBABWE, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES WOULD LEAVE THE BUSH AND RETURN HOME. NKOMO, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE SORELY TEMPTED TO DO THE SAME (PRESUMABLY TO BECOME THE "BLACK PRESIDENT").

4. ON THE SAME DATE, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGAMI, IN A HASTY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, TOLD DCM "OUR POSITION IS MUCH THE SAME AS YOURS", I.E. GOB WILL TRY TO WAIT TO LEARN DETAILS OF INTERNAL AGREEMENT BEFORE MAKING A SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON THEM.

5. COMMENT: THE BLANDNESS AND CAUTION OF GOB'S PUBLIC POSITION IS HARDLY SURPRISING, GIVEN THE DICEY POSITION BOTSWANA OCCUPIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE UNDERLYING URGE FOR PEACE WHICH HIRSCHFELD (PARA 3) CORRECTLY VOICES. AT THE SAME TIME, GOB REMAINS COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLES OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND PARTICULARLY TO FREE AND FAIR PRE-INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS AS THE BEST EXPRESSION OF ZIMBABWEAN OPINION. NORLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO00502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780082-0200
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780230/aaaaaynd.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18bab7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3528172
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: GOB REACTION TO INTERNAL AGREEMENT
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, BC, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18bab7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014